(c) whether it is obligatory for the concerned authorities to act upon the findings of Inquiry Commissions; if not, why;

(d) the avenues available to the common citizens to get prosecution of the persons in authority for abuse of authority and corruption; and

(e) whether citizens failing to move authorities to activate Anti-corruption Act have any other means to get redressal; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act 1952 enables the appropriate Government to appoint a Commission of Enquiry to inquire into any definite matter of public importance. Central Government has appointed only one Commission of Inquiry in the last ten years which looked into certain approvals accorded by a former Chief Minister of Kamataka for certain land transactions. Copies of the Report along with the Memorandum of Action taken were placed on the Table of Both Hpuses of Parliament on 9th and 10th January, 1991.

(c) It is for the appropriate authority (in the above case, the Govt, of Kamataka) to take necessary action on the findings of the Commission.

(d) and (e) Any citizen can move a Police Station or a Court of Law for activating the legal process, against persons in authority for abuse of authority and corruption as per established law.

Coverage of handicapped persons under I.R.D.P.

607. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of handicapped persons likely to be covered under the I.R.D.P.;

(b) whether Government are aware that coverage of handicapped persons under the programme is not upto the mark; and

(c) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAIPATEL): (a) It is stipulated in the IRDP guidelines that at least 3 percent of beneficiaries assisted under the programme should be from the category of physically handicapped persons.

(b) The Government is aware that against 2068773 families covered under IRDP in 1992-93 the number of handicapped persons assisted was only 10861 or 0.52 percent.

(c) In order to ensure that greater benefits accrue to the handicapped persons, their subsidy entitlement was increased to 50%. The ceiling limit on subsidy was enhanced from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 6000 per person for this category with effect from 1.4.93. The coverage of handicapped persons under IRDP rose from 0.33% in 1990-91 to 0.52% in 1992-93. The Ministry of Rural Development has been constantly emphasising in its meetings with State Governments, to improve the coverage of handicapped persons.

Enforcement of new Panchayati Raj Act

608. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to enforce the New Panchayati Raj Act upto the field level in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to make provision for the setting up of three-tier Panchayati Raj namely Panchayat, Block Simiti and Zila Parishad system in the country; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWARTHAKUR): (a) to (c) The Constitution (Seventy Third Amendment) Act, 1992 which has come into force with effect from 24th April, 1993 provides for setting up of three-tier Panchayats viz. at the village level, intermediate level and the district level in all the States/UTs except certain States and areas referred to in Article 243M of the Act. However, vide Article 243 B(2),